

TO: Budget Committee of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
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MEETING: Monday, March 14, 2016

SUBJECT: Budget Briefings, Legislative Budget - **Council Allotments**

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Aloha Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to testify on the budget briefing related to the legislative budget for fiscal year 2017. You may recall last year that I asked several times about the council allotment and what was included above the individual councilmembers' expense accounts. No answer was given.

I then asked Budget and Fiscal Services, and they said I should check with Chair Martin. I sent two different requests to him but was told that I didn't request "government records" as defined by HRS Sec. 92F-3, and no response was given.

Aside from the individual council allotments of \$20,000 each, I would like to know what is included in the Council Allotment line item. Each year that line item is higher than the total of the individual accounts. Last year and this year (\$279,000 - \$180,000), the amount is almost \$100,000 higher. Following are the amounts:

	Total Budgeted	Individual Allotment Times 9	Difference
FY 2016	275,000	180,000	95,000
FY 2015	227,500	180,000	47,500
FY 2014	194,500	174,600	19,900
FY 2013	194,600	174,600	20,000
FY 2012	196,400	144,288	52,112

I hope an explanation will be provided during the next budget committee meeting.